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In the claims:

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Claims 1-19 cancelled

20. (New) A computerized telephony bridge unit, comprising:

an interface for receiving and placing Connection Oriented/Switched Telephony (COST) telephone calls on a COST network;

a second interface for receiving and placing Data Network Telephony (DNT) calls on a data network;

a protocol converter for converting calls between DNT and COST telephone calls; and

a processor for managing operations of the telephony bridge unit;

wherein the processor receives a first call request from one of the COST or DNT networks, to place a call associated with the received call on the network other than the network on which the call is received, and to convert protocols between the associated calls.

- 21. (New) The bridge unit of claim 20 wherein the COST network is a publicly switched telephony (PSTN) network.
- 22. (New) The bridge unit of claim 20 wherein the data network is the Internet, and the DNT calls are Internet Protocol Network Telephony (IPNT) calls or voice over Internet protocol calls.
- 23. (New) The bridge unit of claim 20 further comprising a digitally-stored look-up table relating COST telephone numbers to IP addresses, and wherein the processor is adapted to retrieve specific data from an incoming call, either COST or DNT, and to use the

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retrieved data to access the look-up table to determine an associated COST telephone number or IP address, and to use the associated COST telephone number or IP address to place a call associated with the incoming call.

- 24. (New) The bridge unit of claim23 wherein the specific data from the incoming call is coded in a portion of an IP address associated with the incoming call.
- 25. (New) The bridge unit of claim 20 wherein the processor is adapted to receive a DNT call from a caller and to negotiate with the caller to ascertain a COST telephone number to use to place a COST call associated with the incoming DNT call.
- 26. (New) The bridge unit of claim 25 wherein the bridge unit further comprises an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) unit, and wherein the IVR unit interacts with the caller to ascertain a COST telephone number for a call to be associated with the incoming DNT call.
- 27. (New) A method for processing the interfacing of telephony connections using different protocols, comprising:

receiving and placing Connection Oriented/Switched Telephony (COST) telephone calls on a COST network:

receiving and placing Data Network Telephony (DNT) calls on a data network; converting calls between DNT and COST telephone calls; and

wherein a processor receives a first call request from one of the COST or DNT networks, to place a call associated with the received call on the network other than the network on which the call is received, and to convert protocols between the associated calls.

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28. (New) The method for processing the interfacing of telephony connections of claim 27 further comprising the step of retrieving specific data from an incoming call, either COST or DNT; searching a digitally-stored look-up table relating COST telephone numbers to IP addresses; determining an associated COST telephone number or IP address, and using the associated COST telephone number or IP address to place a call associated with the incoming call.